

PERSISTENCE



To Graduation

Monthly E-news from the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Student Success



Persistence to Graduation Briefs

We are excited to announce the release of the Kentucky Department of Education [Persistence to Graduation Briefs](#) prepared in partnership with the American Youth Policy Forum. The publication consists of a full report and four individual practice briefs in the areas of: [Alternative Education](#), [Community Partnerships](#), [Culture and Climate](#), and [Student Transitions and Reengagement](#). The briefs highlight successful schools and programs throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky that promote high school graduation.

The publication also (1) Explains Kentucky's legislative reform efforts to lower dropout rates, leading up to their Persistence to Graduation Initiative; (2) Includes multiple case examples representing promising and successful practices in rural, suburban, and urban programs, schools, and districts, as well with various student populations in traditional and alternative settings; (3) Identifies specific key strategies that are being used by each program, school, or district highlighted; and (4) Provides a checklist with questions for district leaders and educators to consider.

Career and Technical Education and Student Transition Updates

The Kentucky Department of Education published a [Pathway Phase-out Guidance](#) in March 2017 that detailed all of the career pathways that are being phased out. It is important to note that pathways marked for phase-out at the end of 2018-2019 school year will no longer be visible in Technical Education Database System (TEDS) once the rollover occurs to open the 2019-2020 school year. For detailed information, refer to the [Pathway Phase-out Guidance](#) as well as the information posted in the [TEDS Monthly Notes](#). Remember:

- Do not enroll students in new pathways until the start of 2019-2020 school year.
- Make sure you have the pathway you plan to enroll them in for 2019-2020 in your TEDS (review [Request to ADD or REMOVE a Pathway](#)). The deadline for adding new pathways for 2019-2020 is Sept. 1. The pathway enrollment start date for these new pathways must be during the 2019-2020 school year.

2019-2020 Valid Industry Certifications: The list of [industry certifications that will be valid for the 2019-2020 school year](#) has been posted to the career and technical education (CTE) website. An industry certificate must be valid for a pathway in the year it is taken. It also must be documented in TEDS during the same year. The list of valid certifications can be found on the [CTE, Accountability and Transition Readiness webpage](#).

Exceptional Work Experience: There have been updates to the data entry process of Exceptional Work Experience. The [Exceptional Work Experience Guidance](#), along with the instructions for [How to Complete an Exceptional Work Experience Form](#), can be found on the [CTE, Accountability and Transition Readiness webpage](#).

Relevant Research, Practice Tips, and Briefs

Teens who Pinpoint Emotions Better at Avoiding Depression: This [brief article](#) summarizes findings from a recently published study about emotion differentiation.

First Transgender Suicide Hotline in US: The [TRANS LIFELINE](#) is 877-566-8860. Also, don't forget the [crisis text line](#) offers free 24/7 crisis support in the US (Text HOME to 741741).

More Students are Being Bullied Online: This [short read](#) describes new federal data which demonstrates that while rates of school bullying remain steady, online bullying is increasing for youth aged 12-18.

Can You Go Gradeless? The [latest issue](#) from ASCD explores the issue of student grades and alternative approaches to student assessment that can inspire student led learning and increase in motivation in the classroom.

Human Trafficking Resources: The KDE Safe Schools Team has a [webpage](#) dedicated to the issue of human trafficking. The team also developed a very useful one page educator protocol that provides everything adults in schools need to know and do when they suspect a student is a victim of trafficking. The protocol will be on the webpage forthcoming, but if you are interested in accessing it now before school starts, please contact rae.burgess@education.ky.gov.

Transforming Trauma – Healing Through Connecting with Animals: This [article](#) in psychology today highlights the recently published book Transforming Trauma which includes essays by scholars that focus on animals' ability to help us learn the importance of forming and maintaining deep, meaningful, and reciprocal relationships with them and other human animals. These range from an analysis of the interpersonal neurobiological implications of connections with other animals to the power of play — just having a good old time with others. As we talk to educators across Kentucky we continue to learn about how some schools are incorporating animals in their settings and the positive impacts they have on students and staff alike.

Summer Food Service Program: Between the months of May-August, children aged 18 and under from low-income families will receive free meals as a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer Food Service Program. As the program administrator, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) partners with more than 170 school districts and community organizations statewide to offer nutritious meals, recreational fun and educational activities to students during the summer months. Finding a Summer Food Service Program site is simple: Text "Food" or "Comida" to 877-877. Visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks> or Call (866) 348-6479.

Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

Webinars

Screening Youth for Suicide Risk: The suicide rate among U.S. youth and young adults, ages 10 to 24, has risen in recent years, increasing by nearly 50 percent between 2007 and 2017, and reaching its highest point since 2000 according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On [Tuesday, July 30 from 3:00-4:00](#) (ET), the Children's Safety Network is hosting a webinar with experts from the National Institute of Mental Health and Nationwide Children's Hospital as they discuss early detection of suicide risk through screening using research based assessment tools.

Helping Children Reduce Anxiety in School and at Home: The National Institutes of Health reports that one in three 13-18 year olds has already experienced a major anxiety disorder. Woven throughout this one-hour long webinar will be helpful case studies, humorous stories, and examples of proactive responses to common student challenges. Participants will be able to implement several preventive tools, strategies, and interventions for reducing anxiety and negative thinking, increasing self-regulation, executive functioning, and self-monitoring. [This webinar](#) will occur on August 3 from 2:00-3 (ET).

Open Doors: Create a Healthy School Climate: The Join Attendance Works, United Way Worldwide, and our Attendance Awareness Campaign partners for the third webinar of the year 2019! In this webinar, you'll learn school-wide strategies to create an engaging, healthy school climate that supports everyone in the school building, in both an elementary and secondary setting. Our special guest speakers will share strategies that can shift the relationship between families and school staff, support students' social and emotional learning and development, support teacher's physical and emotional health, and improve the learning environment for everyone in the building. [This webinar](#) will occur on August 8 from 2:00 – 3:30 ET.

Teaching Students about the Holocaust, Genocide and Societal Hate: These one hour webinars from [Echos and Reflections](#) are part of a series designed to help educators promote student learning and understanding of the holocaust, genocide and societal hate. The series include topics such as the role of memory in holocaust education, teaching with the pyramid of hate and teaching about genocide. You can [register](#) for the webinars which occur on various dates.

KDE Standards Rollout Webcast Series: The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will host a series of webcasts on the implementation of newly adopted standards geared toward district and school leaders. All webcasts will occur on Thursdays at 9 a.m. ET. You can access the live webcast by visiting the [KDE Media Portal](#) and clicking on the EdCast Video icon at the bottom of the page. The livestream will be on the home page. You can get questions answered during the webcasts using [GoSoapBox](#) with the access code OTL

Solutions to the Dropout Crisis Webcasts: *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* webcasts are always offered free of cost, and no registration is required. Tune in the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM ET for new [Solutions to the Dropout Crisis](#), where you can also find recordings of previous webcasts.

Conferences and Activities

Free Workshops for Interconnected Systems Framework: Integrating PBIS and Mental Health:

Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky AWARE project partners are hosting free workshops to help schools better meet student mental health needs by integrating mental health supports into existing MTSS/PBIS approaches for academics and behavior– also known as an Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF). For general information or questions contact Kathryn.tillett@education.ky.gov.

ISF addresses the limitations of both PBIS and School Mental Health by 1) expanding the continuum of comprehensive interventions in schools for students, 2) utilizing a multi-tiered system of support, and 3) expanding the data for decision making. Participating school and district teams will learn the steps for getting started from exploration, through installation and early implementation. Learn how to align systems, data, and practices as you generate an integrated action plan. Exemplars from the field will share early successes and challenges of integrating mental health components into their existing PBIS framework.

Three locations and dates are available!

- **July 22** - St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center 3861 Olympic Blvd., Erlanger, KY
- **July 23** - Morehead Conference Center 111 East 1st St., Morehead, KY
- **July 24** - Jackson Energy Cooperative's London District Office 177 Barbourville Rd., London, Kentucky. To register for this session please send an email to dusty.phelps@sesccoop.org

English Learner/Title III Beginning of the Year Training: Regional trainings for English Learner (EL) and Title III coordinators have been scheduled. The sessions will focus on providing guidance to district coordinators of all levels. Topics covered during training will include changes under the Every Student Succeeds Act for ELs, the civil rights requirements that must be met by all districts regardless of its EL population or funding received, and requirements under federal programs such as Title I, Part A and Title III. English Learner, Title III and Title I coordinators are strongly encouraged to attend. However, at least one person from each district should attend one of the six training locations regardless of whether the district receives a Title III sub grant or the number of ELs currently enrolled in the district.

Each training will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m. local time. Sessions may be canceled if registration is low. If your training location is canceled due to low registration, you will be contacted in order to select another training location. Register early to help ensure you get the location of your choice. The dates and locations of each training are listed below along with the registration links. For questions, email Jessica.Sanderson or call her at (502) 564-3791, ext. 4004.

- **July 26** – Shelbyville, Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative, 100 Alpine Drive
- **July 30** – Bowling Green, Green River Regional Educational Cooperative, 230 Technology Way

- **July 31** – Lexington, Kentucky Educational Development Corporation, 118 James Court, Suite 60
- **Aug. 1** – Ashland, Kentucky Educational Development Corporation, 904 Rose Road
- **Aug. 2** – Richmond, Eastern Kentucky University, Perkins Building, 4436 Kit Carson Drive
- **Aug. 5** – Eddyville, West Kentucky Educational Cooperative, 435 Outlet Ave.

Kentucky Alternative Education Summit: [Registration](#) is now open for the 18th Annual Kentucky Alternative Education Summit. The summit will be held July 30-31 at the Embassy Suites in Lexington, KY.

23rd Annual Kids are Worth It! Conference: This multidisciplinary child abuse and neglect prevention [conference](#) will be held on September 9-10 at the Lexington Convention Center. Two keynote sessions and over 38 workshops will cover topics such as internet safety, human trafficking, kinship care, substance abuse, child abuse investigation techniques and more.

National Dropout Prevention Conference: The 2019 conference hosted by the National Dropout Prevention Center will take place October 5-8 in Denver, CO. The conference includes preconference sessions, keynote sessions, breakout sessions and networking opportunities. [Registration](#) is now open.

We hope you are enjoying your summer. We are grateful for you and your work!

If you would like to contribute any information (resources, celebrations, etc.) to this enews, please email judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov. Also, please share this link with your colleagues who might be interested in subscribing to the [Persistence to Graduation listserv](#) (right click to subscribe)